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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 78th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 19 December 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

- Development and international cooperation: reports of the Second Committee [77] (continued)

  (b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s: report of the Second Committee (Part IV)

  (c) World Decade for Cultural Development: report of the Second Committee

  (d) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries: report of the Second Committee (Part VI)

  (f) Desertification and drought: report of the Second Committee (Part VIII)

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(g) Human settlements

(a) Report of the Second Committee

(b) Report of the Fifth Committee

(h) Science and technology for development: report of the Second Committee (Part X)

(i) Entrepreneurship: report of the Second Committee (Part XI)

(j) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development: report of the Second Committee (Part XII)

- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [78]

(a) Report of the Second Committee

(b) Report of the Fifth Committee

- Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind [79]

(a) Report of the Second Committee

(b) Report of the Fifth Committee

- Special economic and disaster relief assistance: report of the Second Committee [84]

- Training and research: United Nations Institute for Training and Research: report of the Second Committee [86]

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [19]

(a) Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

(b) Reports of the Secretary-General

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(d) Report of the Fifth Committee

- Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations [143]

(a) Draft resolution

(b) Report of the Fifth Committee

- Organization of work

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 77 (continued), 78, 79, 84 AND 86

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: REPORTS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (Parts I and II) (A/46/645 and Add.1)

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990s: REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (Part IV) (A/46/645/Add.3)

(c) WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (Part V) (A/46/645/Add.4)

(d) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (Part VI) (A/46/645/Add.5)

(f) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT: REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (Part VIII) (A/46/645/Add.7)

(g) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(a) REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (Part IX) (A/46/645/Add.8)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/789)

(h) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (Part X) (A/46/645/Add.9

(i) ENTREPRENEURSHIP: REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (Part XI) (A/46/645/Add.10)

(j) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (Part XII) (A/46/645/Add.11 (Part B))

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

(a) REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/46/728)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/785)

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

(a) REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/46/729)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/795)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/46/734)

TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH: REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/46/736)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I request the Rapporteur of the Second Committee, Mr. Martin Rakotonaivo of Madagascar, to introduce the reports of the Second Committee in one statement.

Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar), Rapporteur of the Second Committee (interpretation from French): First of all, I have the honour to present the reports of the Second Committee on agenda item 77, entitled "Development and international economic cooperation", in documents A/46/645 and addenda 1, 3 to 5 and 7 to 11.

The General Assembly has before it document A/645/Add.1, which contains draft proposals on the item in general and not on any particular sub-item. In paragraph 11 of document A/645/Add.1, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions it adopted without a vote. In paragraph 12 of the same document the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision it adopted without a vote.

In paragraph 8 of its report (A/46/645/Add.3), on agenda item 77 (b) entitled "Implementation of the Programme of action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s", the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution it adopted without a vote.

In paragraph 10 of its report (A/46/645/Add.4), on agenda item 77 (c) entitled "World Decade for Cultural Development", the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions it adopted by the Second Committee without a vote.

(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Rapporteur, Second Committee)

In paragraph 10 of its report (A/46/645/Add.5), on agenda item 77 (d) entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries", the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions it adopted without a vote. In paragraph 11, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision it adopted without a vote.

In paragraph 7 of its report (A/46/645/Add.7), on agenda item 77 (f) entitled "Desertification and drought", the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution it adopted without a vote, and in paragraph 8 a draft decision it also adopted without a vote.

(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Rapporteur, Second Committee)

In paragraph 17 of its report (A/46/645/Add.8), under agenda item 77 (g), "Human settlements", the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of three draft resolutions. The Committee adopted draft resolution I by a recorded vote, while draft resolutions II and III were adopted without a vote. In paragraph 18, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision it adopted without a vote.

In paragraph 7 of its report (A/46/645/Add.9), under agenda item 77 (h), "Science and technology for development", the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution it adopted without a vote.

In paragraph 7 of its report (A/46/645/Add.10), on agenda item 77 (i), "Entrepreneurship", the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution it adopted without a vote.

In paragraph 6 of its report (A/46/645/Add.11 (Part B), on agenda item 77 (j), "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development", the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution it adopted without a vote.

Under agenda item 78, "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", the General Assembly has before it document A/46/728. In paragraph 9 of that report the Second Committee recommends to the Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution it adopted without a vote.

Under agenda item 79, "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", the Assembly has before it document A/46/729.

(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Rapporteur, Second Committee)

In paragraph 13 of that report the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution it adopted without a vote.

I have the honour to introduce to the Assembly the Second Committee's report (document A/46/734), on agenda item 84, "Special economic and disaster relief assistance: special programmes of economic assistance". In paragraph 56 of that report the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of 10 draft resolutions, all of which it adopted without a vote.

Lastly, I am honoured to introduce the Second Committee's report (document A/46/736) on agenda item 86, "Training and research: United Nations Institute for Training and Research". In paragraph 14 of that report the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution it adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Second Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Second Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the General Assembly agreed that

(The President)

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Second Committee, I should like to advise representatives that, unless delegations have already notified the Secretariat otherwise, we shall proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Second Committee. This means that where a recorded vote was taken we too shall take a recorded vote.

I hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Second Committee.

We turn first to Parts I and II of the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 77, "Development and international economic cooperation" (A/46/645 and Add.1).

We shall first consider Part I of the report (A/46/645). May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of Part I of the report?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We now turn to Part II of the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.1).

The Assembly will now take decisions on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 11 of Part II of its report

(The President)

and on a draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 12 of the same document.

The Assembly will turn first to the two draft resolutions.

Draft resolution I, which is entitled "Economic stabilization programmes in developing countries", was adopted by the Second committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 46/154).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution II is entitled "Report of the South Commission". The Second Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 46/155).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision contained in paragraph 12 of document A/46/645/Add.1. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision, which is entitled "International conference on money and finance for development". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt that draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

(The President)

We now turn to part IV of the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.3) on agenda item 77 (b), entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s".

The Assembly will now proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/156).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 77 (b).

The Assembly will now consider part V of the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.4) on agenda item 77 (c), entitled "World Decade for Cultural Development".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report (A/46/645/Add.4).

Draft resolution I is entitled "World Decade for Cultural Development". The Second Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 46/157).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution II is entitled "World Commission on Culture and Development". Draft resolution II was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 46/158).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 77 (c).

The Assembly will now turn to part VI of the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.5) on agenda item 77, entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of the report and on the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 11 of the same report.

We shall first take a decision on the two draft resolutions contained in paragraph 10.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Technical cooperation among developing countries". The Second Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 46/159).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution II is entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Coordination Conference". The Second Committee also adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I consider it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 46/160).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We now turn to the draft decision contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the Second Committee. It is entitled "Documentation relating to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries".

(The President)

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have now concluded our consideration of agenda item 77 (d).

We now turn to part VIII of the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.7) on agenda item 77 (f), entitled "Desertification and drought".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of the report and on the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of the same report.

We shall first turn to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 7 of the report of the Second Committee. It is entitled "Combating desertification and drought". The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/161).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We turn now to the draft decision contained in paragraph 8 of the report of the Second Committee. The draft decision is entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa".

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 77 (f).

(The President)

We turn now to part IX of the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.8) of agenda item 77 (g), entitled "Human settlements".

The Assembly will take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 17 of the report (A/46/645/Add.8) and on the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 18 of the same document.

The Assembly will first turn to the draft resolutions contained in paragraph 17 of the report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory". The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution I is contained in document A/46/789.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: Belarus, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Draft resolution I was adopted by 135 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions (resolution 46/162).*

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution II is entitled "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000". The Second Committee

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* Subsequently the delegations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Gabon, Gambia, Kenya, Morocco and Uganda advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

(The President)

adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 46/163).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution III, entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 46/164).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The General Assembly will now turn to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its thirteenth session", which was recommended for adoption by the Second Committee in paragraph 18 of its report (A/46/645/Add.8).

May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to adopt it?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 77 (g).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): May I now invite members to turn their attention to part X of the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 77 (h), entitled "Development and international economic cooperation: science and technology for development" (A/46/645/Add.9).

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/165).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 77 (h).

The Assembly will now consider part XI of the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 77 (i), entitled "Development and international economic cooperation: entrepreneurship" (document A/46/645/Add.10).

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/166).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 77 (i).

The Assembly will now turn to part XII of the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 77 (j), entitled "Development and international economic cooperation: effective mobilization and integration of women in development" (A/46/645/Add.11 (Part B)).

(The President)

May I remind representatives that the part of the report of the Second Committee on this sub-item was considered by the General Assembly at its 48th plenary meeting, on 18 November 1991.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of the report of the Second Committee. The draft resolution is entitled "Women, environment, population and sustainable development".

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/167).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 77 (j).

We now turn to the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 78, entitled "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" (A/46/728).

The Assembly will now proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/46/785.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/168).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 78.

We shall now consider the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 79, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/46/729).

(The President)

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 13 of its report. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/46/795.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/169).

The PRESIDENT: (interpretation from Arabic): We have now concluded our consideration of agenda item 79.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 84, entitled "Special economic and disaster relief assistance" (A/46/734).

The Assembly will now take a decision on the ten draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 56 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Special plan of economic cooperation for Central America".

Draft resolution I was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 46/170).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution II is entitled "Special economic assistance to Chad".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 46/171).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution III is entitled "Special assistance to the front-line States".

(The President)

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 46/172).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We now turn to draft resolution IV, entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 46/173).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution V is entitled "Special assistance to Yemen".

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 46/174).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution VI is entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti".

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 46/175).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution VII is entitled, "Emergency Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia".

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 46/176).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Emergency assistance to the Philippines".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution VIII without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 46/177).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic) Draft resolution IX is entitled, "Emergency assistance to the Sudan and Operation Lifeline Sudan".

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 46/178).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Draft resolution X is entitled, "Emergency assistance to Yemen".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution X without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution X was adopted (resolution 46/179).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 84.

(The President)

May I now invite the Assembly to turn its attention to the report (A/46/736) of the Second Committee on agenda item 86, entitled "Training and research: United Nations Institute for Training and Research".

The Assembly will now take a decision the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 14 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/180).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 86.

AGENDA ITEM 19 (continued)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

(a) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/46/23; A/AC.109/1056-A/AC.109/1063, A/AC.109/1064 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1065-A/AC.109/1067, A/AC.109/1068 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1069-A/AC.109/1071, A/AC.109/1073, A/AC.109/1074 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1075-A/AC.109/1078, A/AC.109/1079 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1082);

(b) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/589, A/46/593, A/46/634/Rev.1);

(c) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.22/Rev.1);

(d) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/802).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now resume its consideration of agenda item 19, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples".

The Assembly has before it draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", which was introduced at the 48th plenary meeting on 18 November 1991. Members will

(The President)

recall that at the 68th plenary meeting on 11 December 1991 the Assembly adopted two draft resolutions under this agenda item and postponed action on draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1 in order to give the Fifth Committee time to review the programme budget implications of the draft resolution. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/46/802.

Before putting the draft resolution to the voter, I wish to announce that Jamaica, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela have become additional sponsors of the draft resolution.

The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1. May I take it that the General Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/181).*

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Before giving the floor to the first speaker in explanation of vote, may I remind delegations that in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their position on the resolution just adopted.

Mrs. MENENDEZ (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): Spain has supported and continues to support the fruitful efforts of the United Nations to eliminate colonialism. That is why my delegation is in full agreement with the fundamental goal of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, namely: the elimination of colonial situations in each and every one of the Non-Self-Governing Territories still in existence. In this context

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* Subsequently, the delegation of Israel advised the Secretariat that, had there been a vote on the draft resolution, it would have abstained.

(Mrs. Menendez, Spain)

we recognize the particular importance of the right to self-determination of peoples that are in a colonial situation.

At the same time, it is necessary to emphasize, in keeping with resolution 1514 (XV) and various other resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, that although the free exercise of peoples' right to self-determination is the most usual way of ending colonial situations, there are Non-Self-Governing Territories, clearly identified by the General Assembly, in which this principle is not deemed applicable. Indeed, resolution 1514 (XV) provides in paragraph 6 that

> "Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations."
>
> (resolution 1514 (XV), para. 6)

What is more, the General Assembly has even declared that the holding of supposed acts of self-determination in certain territories is a violation of its resolutions, most especially of the principles established in resolution 1514 (XV). By virtue of this, the third paragraph of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism recommends that the international community and the United Nations system together continue to support the holding and intensification of negotiations and consultations between States involved, with a view to resolving specific colonial situations of the type I have just referred to, one of which is that of Gibraltar.

These principles have been included in the resolution and in the Plan of Action of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, thus making it possible for my delegation to join in the support for the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.22/Rev.1.

Mr. KEMPBER (New Zealand): New Zealand welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1) to which reference is made in the resolution just adopted on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. New Zealand, however, does not accept the call in paragraph 8 of that report for self-determination referendums to be held no later than 31 December 1999. That, in the view of the Government of New Zealand, is totally inconsistent with the right of the people of Non-Self-Governing Territories to decide for themselves how and when they wish to exercise their right to self determination.

Mr. CORR (Ireland): My delegation supported draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1, just adopted. None the less, the text we have supported contains some formulations with which my delegation does not agree. In particular, Ireland does not believe that it is useful or necessary for the General Assembly to support the holding of referendums in each and every Non-Self-Governing Territory by 1999. Rather, we believe that such action, if appropriate, should only follow a comprehensive review of the situation in each Territory and should not be made a prescriptive proposal.

Mr. RIBEIRO-TELLES (Portugal): Portugal considers that the process of decolonization is one of the historic achievements of the United Nations and we hope that this process can soon be successfully completed in accordance with the Charter and the fundamental principles and resolutions of the Organization. In this context, I should like to recall Portugal's continuous collaboration with the United Nations in its capacity as the Administering Power ressponsible for the Non-Self-Governing Territory of East Timor, whose decolonization process is, unfortunately, still awaiting completion, in spite of all the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Mr. Ribeiro-Telles, Portugal)

My delegation supported draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1 because the text reaffirms basic principles and contains important provisions that Portugal fully supports. Moreover, we welcome the proposal contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1), dated 12 November 1991, in connection with the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, namely, the holding of self-determination referendums in the Non-Self-Governing Territories as soon as possible but no later than 31 December 1999, in accordance with all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

However, I must express my delegation's reservations about the continued reference to apartheid in the context of decolonization matters.

Mr. EVANS (United Kingdom): In connection with draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1 under agenda item 19, I should simply like to refer to the previous statement I made in the Assembly during the early discussion of draft resolutions A/46/L.27 and A/46/L.28 to the effect that the United Kingdom delegation cannot support these draft resolutions containing declarations on the eradication of colonialism. We do not accept that self-determination automatically equals independence and, had this draft resolution been put to the vote, my delegation would have been required to abstain.

Mr. van SCHAIK (Netherlands): In connection with draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1, we expected that it would have been put to the vote. I just wanted to state now, in explanation of our position, that, had it been put to the vote, we would have abstained.

Mr. CASTRO (United States): The United States would also like to go on record reiterating the comments of the representatives of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to the effect that we had also expected that draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1 would have been put to a vote.

The United States does not support this draft resolution, and, had it been put to the vote, we would have abstained.

Mr. GRIFFIN (Australia): I should also like to go on record as stating that it was the expectation of my delegation that a recorded vote would have been called for on this draft resolution, in which case my delegation would have abstained. I should like to have that recorded.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to call members attention to the fact that a recorded vote should have been asked for in this case.

Mr. COOLS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I wish to echo what was just stated by the representative of the Netherlands to the effect

(Mr. Cools, Belgium)

that, had there been a vote on draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1, Belgium would have abstained.

Mr. MERIMEE (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation also expected a vote to be taken on the draft resolution. Therefore, my delegation wishes it to be recorded that, had there been a vote on this draft resolution, France would have abstained.

Mr. MALONE (Canada): We would also like the record to reflect that had there been a vote on draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1, we, too, would have abstained.

Mr. NASIER (Indonesia): My delegation would like to record our position to the effect that the decolonization process in East Timor has been completed since 1976 when the decision was made to integrate East Timor within the Republic of Indonesia, in accordance with resolutions 1541 (XV) and 1542 (XV). Therefore, the question of East Timor no longer comes within the scope of the item under consideration.

Mr. RIBEIRO TELLES (Portugal): Allow me to make some brief remarks on what has just been said by the representative of Indonesia concerning the question of East Timor. We cannot see how the case can be made that East Timor ceases to be an issue of decolonization or self-determination when the item is on the agendas of both the General Assembly and the Special Committee. The Security Council has remained seized of the matter since December 1975, which means that the United Nations does not acknowledge that its decolonization process has been completed.

Ms. KOFLER (Austria): I should just like to echo the sentiments of those speakers who have already stated that, had there been a vote on the draft resolution before us, my delegation would have abstained.

Mr. SCHONLEITER (Germany): My delegation, too, expected a vote to be taken on this draft resolution. Therefore, I should like to indicate that, had there been a vote, Germany would have abstained.

Mr. BARONCELLI (Italy): My delegation also expected that draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1 would have been put to a vote, and we would like to associate ourselves with what has been said by previous speakers to the effect that had a recorded vote been taken, my delegation would have abstained on draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1.

Miss BUSCHMANN (Luxembourg) (interpretation from French): My delegation also expected that there would be a vote on draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1. We would like to state, like other delegations which have spoken, that had there been a vote on the draft resolution, we would have abstained.

Mr. BORBOSA (Cape Verde) (interpretation from French): I have asked to speak in order to support, on behalf of my delegation, the statement just made by the representative of Portugal.

Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of Hungary and Poland as well as my own country. Our delegations had expected that there would be a vote. If the draft resolution had been put to the vote, our delegations would have abstained.

Mr. MIHOV (Bulgaria): It is the wish of my delegation to place on record the fact that we also had been expecting the draft resolution to be put to the vote. Had it been put to the vote, we would have abstained.

Mr. HUSLID (Norway): This tends to be repetitive, but, speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, I wish to state that we too would have abstained had a vote been taken on the draft resolution.

Mr. POPESCU (Romania): My delegation also expected that a vote would be taken. Had a vote been taken, my delegation would have abstained.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): There appear to be no other speakers.

I would like to draw the attention of the representatives to the fact that the request for a recorded vote must be made before the beginning of the voting.

We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 19.

AGENDA ITEM 143 (continued)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS:

(a) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.55 and Corr.1)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/806)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): May I remind representatives that the debate on this item was concluded at the 42nd plenary meeting, on 5 November.

Before I call on the representative of Sweden to introduce the draft resolution, I would like to recall his indefatigable work, over days and nights, to lead us to this result. I wish to express our appreciation to him for his efforts.

Mr. ELIASSON (Sweden): Mr. President, thank you very much for your warm words. I have the great honour and the great pleasure, as Chairman of the open-ended ad hoc group for informal consultations on agenda item 143, set up at your initiative, Mr. President, to introduce, on behalf of the group, draft resolution A/46/L.55 and Corr.1 on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations.

In the last few years, the world has witnessed the unfolding of fundamental changes of breathtaking pace and proportion. The cold war has come to an end, and the opportunities for deeper and wider international cooperation, particularly through the United Nations, and perhaps greater than ever before.

(Mr. Eliasson, Sweden)

The international community now has the chance, indeed the collective responsibility, to make it possible for the United Nations to realize at long last the very objectives enshrined in the Charter 45 years ago. Our challenges are threefold, as was so eloquently stated by the Brazilian President in his opening address to the General Assembly at the 4th plenary meeting in September: a political one: peace; an economic one: development; and an ethical one: a life in dignity for all.

In the political field we have been gratified to register a number of successes for the United Nations in recent years. Many regional conflicts have been settled or alleviated through efforts made by the United Nations. The Security Council has demonstrated considerable unity, and the Secretary-General has exercised a great degree of innovative diplomacy in his tenacious peace-making efforts. In the economic and social fields, however, we are still, to a large degree, waiting to see concrete results from our work here in the United Nations.

During this year, growing international concern has been evident about the response to natural disasters and other emergencies, a concern which has been deeply felt by many Governments at the highest level and a great number of engaged organizations and people around the world. This has been dramatized by the great human suffering we have witnessed recently: from the cyclone in Bangladesh to the cholera epidemic in Peru, from the earthquakes in the Philippines to the tragic aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, from the hungry and malnourished faces of children in the Horn of Africa to the mass displacement of people and the appearance of millions of refugees in different parts of the world.

(Mr. Eliasson, Sweden)

When we agreed, earlier this fall, to put item 143 on the agenda of the General Assembly, we took it upon ourselves to do better and to contribute more in order to save lives and to alleviate suffering around the world. It is against that background that I am most gratified to submit this draft resolution to the General Assembly for consideration and approval.

The draft resolution begins by setting out the guiding principles for humanitarian assistance, emphasizing the cardinal importance of such assistance for the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies. The principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality are stressed. It is recognized in the draft resolution that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected and that in this context humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of and, in principle, on the basis of an appeal made by the affected country. While affirming that each State has the responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of emergencies occurring in its territory, the draft resolution also emphasizes the importance of international emergency assistance.

Furthermore, States whose populations are in need are called upon to facilitate the work of implementing humanitarian assistance. States in proximity to emergencies are urged to participate closely with the affected countries in international humanitarian efforts.

Other principles concern disaster prevention and preparedness, the relationship between emergency rehabilitation and development and the need for economic growth and sustainable development. Moreover, it is stated that contributions for humanitarian assistance should be provided in a way which is not to the detriment of resources for international development cooperation.

(Mr. Eliasson, Sweden)

The final guiding principle underlines the central and unique role of the United Nations in providing leadership and coordinating the efforts of the international community to support the affected countries.

After the guiding principles, the draft resolution outlines a number of specific measures to enhance the prompt and coordinated response of the United Nations system to natural disasters and other emergencies. These include the strengthening of the capacity of developing countries in disaster prevention and mitigation; the systematic pooling, analysis and dissemination of early-warning information to all interested Governments and organizations; a central register of stand-by capacities within and outside the United Nations system that can be called upon on short notice by the United Nations; as well as coordinated consolidated appeals. Moreover, the draft resolution calls for the establishment of a central emergency revolving fund of US$ 50 million as a cash-flow mechanism for use in the initial phase of emergencies.

Recognizing the critical importance of the Secretary-General's leadership, the resolution recommends the designation by the Secretary-General of a senior official as emergency relief coordinator to work closely and with direct access to him in fulfilling a number of specified responsibilities. He or she should work in cooperation with the relevant organizations and entities of the system dealing with humanitarian assistance, with full respect for their mandates and without prejudice to any decisions to be taken by the General Assembly on the overall restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat. This high-level official is expected to work closely, not only with organizations and entities of the United Nations system, but also with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Organization for Migration and

(Mr. Eliasson, Sweden)

relevant non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, provision is made for an Inter-Agency Standing Committee, as well as for country-level coordination.

Last, but not least, the draft resolution underlines that emergency assistance needs to be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development. International cooperation and support for rehabilitation and reconstruction should continue with sustained intensity after the initial relief stage. Finally, it is stated that international cooperation should be accelerated for the development of developing countries, thereby contributing to reducing the occurrence and impact of future disasters and emergencies.

Taken together, the draft resolution constitutes a set of interrelated principles and measures for the provision of humanitarian assistance in a coherent and timely manner. These elements form part of what can turn out to be, I dare say, landmark arrangements for putting in place a coordinated and effective system for humanitarian emergency assistance. I therefore recommend that the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.55 and Corr.1 should be adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

Before concluding, I would like to commend all delegations for the extraordinary spirit of goodwill and conciliation and for the patience and indeed, sometimes, good humour shown during these past six weeks of intensive work. I also want to thank the Secretariat for excellent, precise and loyal assistance at very unconventional working hours. I truly believe that what kept us all going, especially at the more strenuous moments of the negotiations, was the realization that we had been provided with a unique opportunity to make a real and lasting contribution to the alleviation of humnan suffering in the world. To put it simply, we could not afford to fail.

(Mr. Eliasson, Sweden)

It is sometimes said that it is only possible to achieve a consensus resolution at the United Nations on the basis of the lowest common denominator and through the skilful avoidance of tough decisions. That has not happened during this process. Member States have recognized their responsibility to deal decisively with a concrete and crucial item on the United Nations agenda. This augurs well for the United Nations, not only in the provision of humanitarian assistance, but also in furthering our work in the economic, social and environmental fields. Most importantly, it conveys a strong signal to peoples around the world, particularly those in distress - and there are too many of them - that the States Members of the United Nations care and are accepting - and dealing with - the challenges and responsibilities facing us. In this way, the draft resolution that is before us could constitute a small but strongly needed victory for solidarity.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of Ghana, who will speak in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77.

Mr. AWOONOR (Ghana): I wish to place on record the deep appreciation of the Group of 77 for the sterling work undertaken by the Permanent Representative of Sweden, my good friend Ambassador Eliasson, who has chaired the open-ended Ad Hoc Group and the Working Committee on agenda item 143 since its inclusion and introduction in the Economic and Social Council in Geneva. His patience and wide-ranging diplomatic skills have made it possible finally to reach an agreement on this difficult subject.

We also wish to congratulate all our negotiating partners, particularly those permanent representatives from both the North and the South, who met

(Mr. Awoonor, Ghana)

regularly to find solutions to aspects of this document that were difficult to agree on in one encounter.

The final outcome of the draft resolution and document that is now before members is the fruit of the long months of negotiation. It gives expression to that glowingly creative spirit of give and take that has come more and more to characterize our work in this body. What we have attained by these efforts cannot be interpreted by anyone as a victory for this country or that group of countries. Besides, it is uncharitable and unacceptable for anyone to suggest that we in the Group of 77 approached the work that went into the attainment of this draft resolution with scepticism and hostility. If some do not understand the spirit of resolve, seriousness and, above all, give and take that underlies the attitude of the Group of 77, they will continuously be underrating our capacity to defend the noble principles upon which this Organization of sovereign States was founded.

The Assembly has a fair and balanced document through which the Organization's relief assistance role must be enhanced. We have, in defence of our sovereign rights as nations, firmly rejected the principle of humanitarian intervention. By no stretch of the imagination does this draft resolution come anywhere near establishing in international law a concept that not only violates the very spirit of international law, but also constitutes an insult to the very self-respect of all nations, big or small, poor or rich.

(Mr. Awoonor, Ghana)

We look forward to the new lease on life that this resolution will give the United Nations in its noble role of helping the afflicted and those who are the victims of natural or man-made disasters. We hope that in the new coordination of this assistance, every United Nations institution that has been especially set up for this purpose, particularly the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), will be able to play its full role and thus make the Office a meaningful one.

We also hope that UNDRO will not become the focus of flamboyant acting for the cameras or self-promotion on the part of anyone, but will remain a serious centre of engagement by the United Nations in its commitment genuinely to be the key player in humanitarian relief and an active agent of development and the eradication of poverty in countries where underdevelopment and poverty exacerbate any crisis that accompanies disaster.

We recommend very strongly that this draft resolution and its accompanying document be unanimously adopted by the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The General Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/46/L.55 and Corr.1. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/46/806.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/46/L.55 and Corr.1?

Draft resolution A/46/L.55 and Corr.1 was adopted (resolution 46/182).

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Tunisia, who wishes to speak on a point of order.

Mr. JOMAA (Tunisia): I wish to propose some corrections to the text just adopted. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, I should like to do so here in the General Assembly.

In the English text of paragraph 34 of the annex, the commas around "emergency relief coordinator" should be replaced by parentheses.

Mr. VAN SCHAIK (Netherlands) (interpretation from French): The European Community and its member States welcome the fact that the draft resolution "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations", introduced on the initiative of the Community, has been adopted by consensus by the Assembly. While it did not go as far as we had hoped, this resolution is nevertheless a step forward in coordinating humanitarian assistance. The designation of a coordinator, the establishment of an emergency fund and the adoption of measures to strengthen the response capacity in this area and to improve coordination within the United Nations system: all of these together constitute an important first step towards establishing humanitarian arrangements that we must put into operation immediately. We shall improve and supplement these arrangements in the coming years.

(Mr. Van Schaik, Netherlands)

This text, by reaffirming the importance of humanitarian assistance, confirms the achievements and principles which are expressed, for example, in resolutions 43/131 and 45/100, particularly the principles of access to victims and of humanitarian corridors. The context for the coordinator's activities is the legal framework of those resolutions and that of the resolution we have just adopted.

The interest again taken this year by everybody in humanitarian problems confirms the importance now accorded to aid and assistance to any life at risk. Over and above the letter of the text, we are reaffirming the fundamental importance of respecting, defending and protecting every human life, which should remain unassailable principles and universal values.

We wish to express our gratitude to all delegations for the constructive spirit in which they took part in the lengthy, complicated and sometimes difficult negotiations. However, all parties demonstrated their commitment to achieving a lasting improvement in the capacity of the United Nations to respond to emergency situations. We wish to pay a particular tribute to Ambassador Jan Eliasson, the Permanent Representative of Sweden, for his patience, competence and diplomacy.

Sir David HANNAY (United Kingdom): My delegation is very pleased that consensus was reached on this important resolution. As the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, has just said, we all welcome the comprehensive package of measures to strengthen the United Nations response to humanitarian emergencies and disasters. We believe that this is a major step in the right direction, and I also should like to congratulate the Permanent Representative of Sweden on the outstanding work he did.

(Sir David Hannay, United Kingdom)

I wish merely to make one short announcement. My Government has decided to make a contribution of $5 million to the new Central Emergency Revolving Fund. We hope that other potential donors will also be able to announce their contributions soon and that the Fund will reach its target quickly, so that it can come into operation without delay.

Mr. BABA (Uganda): I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for your thoughtful selection of Ambassador Eliasson to chair the ad hoc working group on this important and indeed vital task; Ambassador Eliasson greatly facilitated the achievement of consensus throughout the negotiations on this important draft resolution. We pay tribute to him for his efforts. I should also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent assistance they provided both to the group and to the Ambassador in their achievement of this decision.

Secondly, I wish to subscribe fully and offer full support to the statement made by the Ambassador of Ghana, Chairman of the Group of 77, before the adoption of the resolution.

My delegation has joined in the consensus on the resolution relating to humanitarian assistance on the understanding that any response - national, international or otherwise - to emergency situations must aim first and foremost at saving lives and alleviating the suffering of the people affected. It therefore follows that providing swift and effective responses to all emergencies must be the issue of highest priority.

In the past, there have been overlapping responsibilities between the aid agencies in dealing with emergencies and humanitarian assistance. We are happy to note that this resolution contains a call for streamlining to eliminate past anomalies and to provide a coordinated response through the

(Mr. Baba, Uganda)

inter-agency standing committee mechanism under the leadership of the high-level coordinator. Similarly, we expect the same consolidated coordination at the national level through the direction of the resident coordinator. Furthermore, we also expect the United Nations system to respond quickly in the event of an emergency, with the cooperation of all concerned.

We joined in the consensus on this resolution with the full understanding that such a response must be made at the request and with the consent of the countries concerned. We do not subscribe to the notion that there could be situations in which there is no authority or government: there can be bad governments, but there will always be authority in countries or in affected areas, and their consent must always first be obtained. The notion of sovereignty of States must therefore be fully protected and respected at all times in responding to emergency situations.

Mr. MOORE (United States of America): The delegation of the United States is pleased to have joined in the consensus and is privileged to have participated with others in the hard work to produce this resolution. We are grateful, too, to Ambassador Eliasson for his resolute and graceful leadership of the informal ad hoc working group.

We believe that resolution 46/182, "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations", represents a signal accomplishment in United Nations reform and in the Organization's ongoing efforts to strengthen the priority and coordination of system-wide response to humanitarian emergencies, including complex and prolonged ones.

My delegation has been deeply impressed by the broadly shared resourcefulness, spirit of cooperation and common commitment shown by all

(Mr. Moore, United States)

Member countries in forging a delicately balanced set of measures. We believe that, taken together and faithfully pursued, they can reduce suffering and can save and heal the lives of people who are afflicted by horrendous disasters, whether sudden or creeping, violent or insidious, natural or man-made, and that they can improve United Nations response capacity while honouring the principles of national sovereignty.

It is a signal of this Organization's serious dedication to the most precious and essential humanitarian principles that these improvements have been unanimously approved by this Assembly.

Mr. MALONE (Canada): My Government and the delegation of Canada are very pleased with the adoption of this text, related to an initiative with which Canada has been closely associated. We also should like to thank Ambassador Eliasson for his sterling work in leading us through lengthy and complicated negotiations. Similarly, we wish to thank the Secretariat for its valuable assistance and impressive professionalism throughout these negotiations.

This resolution produces no losers, only winners, particularly those affected personally by emergencies.

Mr. HUSLID (Norway): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway - on this matter, which is of such crucial importance to all Member States and, not to be forgotten, to the millions of victims of emergency situations around the world, for whom prompt and efficient assistance is the only thing that counts.

There is all the more reason to congratulate ourselves upon the consensus agreement we reached on the resolution just adopted in that the process leading up to the decision was both very long and arduous and at the same time quite exemplary, I should say, in terms of consensus-building among Member nations.

Even though I belong to the same regional group as the Chairman of the informal consultation group, I must be allowed to echo other speakers in warmly congratulating Ambassador Eliasson on his excellent leadership, stamina and wisdom in guiding this process to a successful outcome. I also express my sincere appreciation to our partners in the negotiations and in particular to the Group of 77 for their sense of moderation and statesmanship on a matter that touched upon principles and subjects of a fundamental and sensitive nature to all of us.

In fact, I have little to add to what previous speakers have said in terms of the subject matter, although not all our wishes were fulfilled by the resolution. The text itself reflects a careful balance between principles and operational guidelines, while assuring the strengthening of United Nations humanitarian emergency assistance activities through improved coordination and governance. In the measures just adopted by the Assembly - inter alia the creation of the position of a high-level official for coordination purposes and the establishment of a central fund - the Nordic countries find increased

(Mr. Huslid, Norway)

confidence in the ability of the United Nations system to effectuate emergency assistance with the promptness and efficiency that is of literally vital importance in the first days of an emergency situation and in the equally crucial follow-up rehabilitation and development phases.

The Nordic countries are now looking forward to the early convening, in the first quarter of 1992, of the meeting of potential donors that is called for in paragraph 24 of the text in order to secure contributions to the fund on, as the resolution states so well, an assured, broad-based and additional basis.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 143.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform delegations that the relevant documentation for the agenda items originally listed for this afternoon's meeting will be available tomorrow morning. Those items will therefore be considered in a plenary meeting to be held tomorrow at a time to be announced in the Journal. In that connection I reiterate my request for understanding and cooperation by delegations regarding the scheduling of the remaining agenda items.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.